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BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health
for 1942.

CHAIRMAN: Cr. H. C. Orton, J.P.
VICE CHAIRMAN Cr. I. C. Osborn.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:-

CHAIRMAN: Cr. P. R. Huggett

Cr. H. C. Orton, J.P.	Cr. H. Warren
Cr. H.G. Polley, J.P., C.C.	Cr. A.J. Aldridge
Cr. I.C. Osborn.	Cr. C.O. Fenson
Cr. E.A. Ruddock	Cr. T. Hanson.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BRIGHTLINGSEA
URBAN DISTRICT:-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: J. Ramsbottom, M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County
Medical Officer, and Medical Officer of Health
to the Tendring Rural District Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR: (Whole-time Officer):-
J.C. Hicks, M.S.I.A., who also acts as Surveyor,
Meat and Food Inspector and Officer under the
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act. 1919.

WATERWORKS MANAGER: I.S. Priest (Whole-time Officer)

Town Hall,
Brightlingsea.

August, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1942.
Owing to the War, the Ministry of Health has again decided to
curtail the contents of the Report to a minimum.

Arrangements have been made to preserve all records, in
order that, at the end of the war, a comprehensive Report,
dealing with the whole period of hostilities, can be made.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. RAMSBOTTOM.

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics.

Area (exclusive of water)	2,875 acres
Population (1931 Census)	4,145
Population (R.G. Estimate)	4,093
Number of inhabited houses	1,586
Rateable Value	£20,423
Sum represented by a penny Rate	£80. 4. 11d

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births - Legitimate	53
Illegitimate	5
Total Live Births	58
BIRTH RATE	14.17
Still Births Legitimate	2
Rate per 1000 live and still Births	33.3
Deaths	68
DEATH RATE (Crude)	16.61

DEATHS FROM DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS OF PREGNANCY AND CHILD BIRTH

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Death rate per 1000 live and still Births</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	0
Other Maternal Causes	1	16.67

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Actual number of deaths (Legitimate)	Nil
" " " " (Illegitimate)	Nil
Infantile Death Rate	Nil

DEATHS FROM MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH AND DIARRHOEA (UNDER ONE YEAR)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Measles	0	Nil
Whooping Cough	0	Nil

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER AND INFLUENZA.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) (3)		
" " " " (Non-Pulmonary) (0)	3	.73
Cancer	13	3.18
Influenza	1	.24

INFANTILE DEATHS.

There are no deaths of infants under 1 year of age during 1942.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1942

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1-2</u>	<u>2-5</u>	<u>5-15</u>	<u>15-25</u>	<u>25-35</u>	<u>35-45</u>	<u>45-55</u>	<u>55-65</u>
0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	12
60-75	75 and upwards				TOTAL			
27	24				68			

There have been 68 deaths in 1942 as compared with 58 the previous year. This increase of 10 is mainly due to the greater mortality amongst the age groups 55-75. As a matter of fact the deaths amongst persons under 55 is exceptionally low.

<u>Age 0-55</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>
" 55-75	5	17	Total.	68
" 75 and over	39	15		58
	24	26		

The figures are too small for a definite conclusion but it is suggestive that war conditions and the strain of war work is affecting persons between 60 and 70 to a much greater extent than at other ages.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are examined at the Emergency Pathological Service at Laboratory, Essex County Hospital, Colchester. Water specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratories, Gidea Park College, Gidea Park, Essex.

<u>AMBULANCE FACILITIES</u>	No change from previous year 1941						
<u>CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.</u>	" " " " " " "						
<u>MIDWIVES AND NURSING HOMES</u>	" " " " " " "						

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA INCLUDING REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER

There have been no new sources of water since 1933. The present supply is sufficient for the town.

The automatic chlorination plant is now installed and all the water passing through the mains receives a constant dose of .3 parts per million. This would be increased to an effective dose should an emergency occur.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During 1942 no extensions were made to the sewers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

See 1938 Report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

See 1938 Report.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour. Salvage is in Brightlingsea run in conjunction with the scavenging.

SWIMMING POOL AND BATHS.

The open-air swimming pool was open to the public during 1942.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of infested houses		
" "	Council	Nil
" "	other	Nil
" "	disinfested	Nil

SCHOOLS

These are periodically visited. There are now two schools in Brightlingsea. The Senior Council School and the Junior National School.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

	No.	No. of Inspections
Houses	14	29 (including revisits)
Other Premises	1	2
Dairies and Milkshops	14	28
Cowsheds	7	18
Bakehouses	6	24
Slaughterhouses	4	11

Houses disinfected 4
 Complaints received and dealt with 7
 Informal notices served. 3

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED.

Housing Act	Nil
Public Health Acts	Nil
Informal Notices P.H. Meat Regulations	Nil.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS.

The Council assisted the owners in the destruction of rats during Rat Week.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.(a) Milk Supply.

Periodical visits were made and the premises found satisfactory. One dealer licensed in Pasteurised Milk (Special Designations Order, 1925)

(b) Meat.

11 visits were made to slaughterhouses for examination of meat supplies coming into district, and the following were condemned but returned for purposes other than human consumption.

22 lbs Beef	Bone Taint
10 lbs Liver	Decomposition (Australian)
13½ lbs Corned Beef	Perforation of Tins and Putrefaction
12 lbs Chopped Ham	" " " "

(c) Other Foods

17½ lbs Bacon	Bone Taint
12 lbs Cod Fillets	Decomposition
11 tins Pineapple)
10 " Milk)
7 " Baked Beans)
5 " Sausage Meat)
5 " HERRINGS)
2 " Tomatoes)
2 " Pies)
2 " rabbit)
2 " Spinach puree)
40 cans broken in transit	- unfit for human consumption.

(d) Bakehouses

Visits were made periodically to ensure cleanliness.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Premises	Inspections	Notices
Factories	12	
Workshops	9	
Workshops	0	
	<u>21</u>	

No defects were found.

SECTION D

During 1942, no houses were erected in Brightlingssea, as compared with 3 in 1939, and none in 1940 and 1941. Housing complaints were dealt with as they arose.

No demolition orders were made during the year apart from War Demolition.

SECTION E.

MILK SUPPLY.

Cowsheds and dairies have been regularly visited. There are on the Brightlingssea register 7 producers and 8 retailers.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

BAKEHOUSES.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SHELLFISH (Mulluxan)

During 1942, 809,600 oysters were marketed from Brightlingssea after cleansing. This compares with:-

1941	2,055,714
1940	2,021,292
1939	3,401,062
1938	4,361,107

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The undermentioned cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1942.

	Total Cases	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0
Diphthoria	1 (not immunised)	1	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Pneumonia	2	0	1
Measles	30	0	0
Dysentery	1	1	0

There have been no epidemics of infectious disease during 1942 with the exception of Measles. The 30 cases notified represent only a proportion of the cases actually occurring. The disease was mild; no patients required hospital treatment and no deaths occurred.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

The scheme followed with respect to the anti-diphtheria inoculations was dealt with in the report of 1941. Regarding propaganda, more reliance has been placed upon personal contact with the parents than posters and handbills.

The County Health Visitor and District Nurse Midwife come in contact with every mother in Brightlingssea. These nurses advise the inoculations and leave with the mother the usual application form. Clinics are arranged as and when a sufficient number of parents have accepted treatment.

The following figures show the position at the end of 1942

	Under 5 years	5-15 Years	Total
Estimated no. of children in Brightlingside	217	467	684
Number of children who completed full course at end of 1942	79	347	426
Percentage immunised in each group	36.4	74.3	62.3

It is hoped to improve these figures. It is to be regretted that there is a good deal of anti-inoculation propaganda and it must be remembered that a certain section of the general public prefer to credit the truthfulness of an irresponsible pamphlet rather than believe the statements of an official, or even acknowledge facts they can easily ascertain for themselves.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1942 there were 45 cases on the register as compared with 50 in 1941. During the year 3 deaths occurred ages 42, 50 and 56, and four pulmonary cases and 1 non pulmonary were notified.